

CLAIMS:

1. A method for comparing between an orthodontic element's actual position on the surface of a tooth and a proper position, the method comprising:

(a) monitoring the element, the tooth or both once the element and the tooth are proximal to one another by an image acquisition unit which transmits an image to a screen that displays said image;

(b) displaying information on said screen regarding proper position of said element in a manner allowing to compare between the actual and the proper position.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the information regarding the proper position of the element comprises a virtual image of the tooth.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the virtual image comprises lines tracing boundaries of the tooth.

4. A method according to Claim 2 or 3, comprising superimposing the virtual image with a real image captured by the image acquisition unit displayed on the screen.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said element is an orthodontic bracket.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the image acquisition unit is mounted on the positioning device.

7. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the element is held on by said device in a fixed, predetermined position.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the position of the element is such so that the element appears in the center of the image displayed on the screen.

9. A system for positioning of an orthodontic element or a marking device having a marking member for marking a position for subsequent placement of an orthodontic element on a surface of a tooth, comprising:

- an image acquisition unit for capturing an image of the tooth or of said element, and an image of both once the tooth and said element are proximal to one another;

- an image grabber coupled to said image acquisition unit for receiving the image captured by the image acquisition unit and transmitting an image or a representation thereof to a display unit; and

- a display unit, coupled to the image grabber, for displaying said image or representation.

10. A system according to Claim 9, comprising a module coupled to the display unit, for displaying markings providing guidance information on the tooth's surface, superimposed on said image or representation.

11. A system according to Claim 10, wherein said markings constitute of a virtual image of either at least one tooth, the orthodontic element or both.

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein said virtual image comprises a boundary's representation.

13. A positioning device for positioning an element on the surface of a tooth, comprising:

- a gripping member for holding the element and releasing it once it is fixed on the tooth surface; and

- an image acquisition unit for capturing an image of the element held on the gripping member and of its surrounding.

14. A device according to Claim 13, wherein the element and the image acquisition unit are mutually fixed such that said element appears in a predetermined spot of the image captured by the image acquisition unit.

15. A marking device for marking a position for subsequent placement of an orthodontic element on a surface of a tooth, comprising:

- a marking member held on said marking device in a manner allowing to mark said position on a tooth surface; and

- an image acquisition unit for capturing an image of the marking device and of its surrounding.

16. A device according to Claim 15, wherein the marking member and the image acquisition unit are mutually fixed such that said member appears in a predetermined spot of the image captured by the image acquisition unit.

17. A method according to Claim 3, comprising superimposing the virtual image with a real image captured by the image acquisition unit displayed on the screen.